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# Sweet Briar College Newsletter

in of Sweet Briar College

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## January Forums

Sweet Briar initiated a series of January Forums for the first month of 1974 dealing with "Communications in Contemporary Culture."

"The Forums were designed to form a stimulating arena for the exchange of ideas and to provide a continuing education opportunity especially for those who are no longer in college," said Mrs. Elizabeth Wood, director of External College Relations. "In fact, seating priority was given to those outside the college community."

In the first of the series, Mrs. Eija Celli, Assistant Professor of Physical Education (dance) at Sweet Briar presented "Dance in Dialogue" in which "creating means seeing, reducing and ordering." Mrs. Celli, a native of Finland who combines the European and American schools of dance, lead the lecture demonstration and explored choreography as a medium for communication. Student projects in dance composition as well as works in progress were presented by members of the Sweet Briar Dance Theatre during the program.

The second Forum featured Allen W. Huszti, Assistant Professor of Music at Sweet Briar, addressing the topic "Music From the Inside Out—Ned Rorem." In the words of Mr. Huszti, "The relationship of text and music in any period of history has concerned the finest composers. Ned Rorem, America's foremost composer of songs in the 20th Century is extremely concerned about the poetry that he sets to music."

Several of his songs were discussed in the light of the meaning of text and compositional techniques.

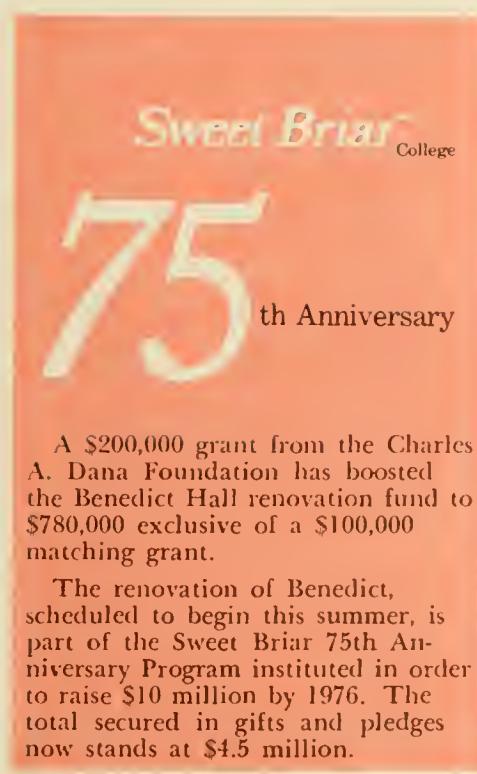
Chairman of the Sweet Briar Art Department, Loren Oliver, conducted the third Forum in which he discussed "20th Century Art: How Does It Mean?"

"Great art," Oliver said, "is created by artist of all periods and schools searching for freedom from the tyranny of man and the tyranny of his established structures of art.

(continued on page 8)



The second edition of "The Sweet Briar Station" has been issued by Raymond Twiddy, Assistant Professor of Studio Art at Sweet Briar, due to the number of requests being received. The first edition was limited to 180 copies and individually signed by the artist, whereas the second issue will be signed on the plate. Image size of the print is 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Copies of the print may be obtained by writing to the Sweet Briar Book Shop, Sweet Briar, Virginia, 24595. The print is \$5.50 post paid; custom matted and framed with glass to a 15 x 20 inch size is \$20.00 which also includes postage and insurance. Virginia residents add 4% sales tax.



A \$200,000 grant from the Charles A. Dana Foundation has boosted the Benedict Hall renovation fund to \$780,000 exclusive of a \$100,000 matching grant.

The renovation of Benedict, scheduled to begin this summer, is part of the Sweet Briar 75th Anniversary Program instituted in order to raise \$10 million by 1976. The total secured in gifts and pledges now stands at \$4.5 million.

## Old Station Moved to Campus

The old Sweet Briar Station has been moved from its site beside the tracks of the Southern Railway, where it has stood for the last 67 years, to the campus of Sweet Briar College.

The old station was given to the college by Southern Railway after it was closed by the company because of insufficient use. At one time it was the principle approach to Sweet Briar and served generations of students who traveled to the college by train.

Now this nostalgic piece of Sweet Briar history has been deposited on the far end of the campus, near Guion Science Building, overlooking scenic pastures and hillsides.

Mrs. Diane A. Burrows of Sweet Briar notes that the station was constructed in late summer of 1906 as "a simple one-level structure whose sides were originally shingled

(continued on page 8)



**Robert C. Tyson**  
**1905-1974**

Robert C. Tyson, a director of U.S. Steel Corporation and former chairman of the Board of Directors and Overseers of Sweet Briar College, died in January at the age of 68.

Mr. Tyson, who was widely regarded as a financial executive, was chairman of the finance committee at U.S. Steel from 1956 until his retirement in 1970. He continued to serve on the corporation's finance and executive committees.

In 1972, Mr. Tyson retired as director and chairman of the Sweet Briar College Board of Directors and Overseers. He was named chairman in 1969 following eight years on the governing boards of the college.

Mr. Tyson's association with Sweet Briar began 20 years ago when his daughter was a student here. In 1968, he served as chairman for a nationwide capital funds campaign on behalf of the college.

In a resolution drawn at the time of his retirement from the Sweet Briar Board, the members praised Tyson as having "demonstrated exemplary qualities of leadership and wisdom combined with boundless energy in resolving the problems of education in this academic community as well as others—notably as trustee of his Alma Mater, Princeton University, as trustee of the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges, as regent of Mercersburg Academy, as chairman of the Board of the Lahey Clinic Foundation, as director of the Boys Clubs of America and as advisor to the Hoover Institute."

Throughout his association with Sweet Briar, Mr. Tyson shared generously with his managerial, fiscal, and legal expertise which was gained from his distinguished career in the financial world.

A spokesman for Sweet Briar noted that "we owe Robert Tyson a deep debt of gratitude for his dedication to the interest of the college which is reflected in its growth under his leadership and in the improvement and development of the physical plant as well as the expansion and strengthening of the academic program.

"I cannot think of anyone who has given more of himself for Sweet Briar College," the spokesman concluded.

Born Aug. 13, 1905 in Thurmont, Md., Mr. Tyson graduated from Princeton University in 1927 and later played a key role in the university's successful \$53 million campaign for funds.

With the rank of ambassador, he was head of the United States delegation to the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications held in Geneva, Switzerland during June and July of 1971.

Mrs. Tyson is the former Lucy Perry Bannar of Norfolk. Their daughter, Virginia, class of '58 is Mrs. Ralph E. Lawrence, II of Norfolk.

### Symposium on Government Crisis

Representatives from the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Watergate Committee joined a Constitutional law expert and an ousted member of the Nixon Administration for a three part Sweet Briar symposium on the "Current Crisis in Government." Conceived by President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr., the objective of the symposium was "to bring to the Sweet Briar community information as to events leading up to where we now stand, and expert opinion on the options that lie ahead."

In the first of the series, Congressman Caldwell Butler, a Judiciary Committee member, teamed with Prof. Stephen Salzburg of the Univ. of Virginia School of Law to examine the Constitutional questions involved in the impeachment process. They were followed by former Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus who discussed his term in the Administration and the details surrounding his dismissal by Mr. Nixon for refusing to fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox. Rufus Edmisten, Deputy Counsel to the Watergate Committee, reported extensively on the activities of the committee in the investigation of 1972 campaign practices in the last symposium of the series.

### Former Sociology Chairman Receives Joint Citation

Dr. Belle Boone Beard, Emeritus Professor of Sweet Briar College, has been cited jointly by the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons at their conference held recently in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Considered the world's foremost authority on centenarians," the citation reads, "her deepening interest in the aged has led her from her earlier fields of social work, anthropology, sociology and psychology into the broader spectrum of the emerging field of gerontology.

"For the past quarter of a century, her study and research has centered around persons 100 years of verified age and older . . . (Her) research into human longevity has extended her influence nationally and internationally. She has held visiting professorships in the United States, Latin America, and the Far East.

"The results from her investigations into the lives of centenarians have been presented at five International Gerontology Conferences and at many other meetings."

Since her retirement from active teaching, she has served as Research Associate in Gerontology at New Mexico Highlands University; as Research Professor at the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Georgia; as Research Professor at the Lynchburg College Research Institute; and since 1970 as Director of Centenarian Research at Sweet Briar.

She is a recipient of the Professional Award of the Gerontology Society of Georgia; was named to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Honor Roll for distinguished public service; and has been a bestowee of the T. Gibson Hobbs Memorial Award for distinguished service in the field of education.

She is a Charter Member and Fellow of the Gerontological Society Inc., and a Fellow of the International Gerontology Association; a member *in causa honoris* of the societe de Geriatrica of Chile; and for three years was a member of the University of Georgia Council on Gerontology.

Since 1971 she has been a member of the Virginia Governor's Advisory Board on Aging. In 1971 she was named by the Governor as Virginia's Outstanding Older American for the White House Conference of that year.

## Station (continued from page 1)

to a foundation of five courses of grooved clapboards. The roof, until at least 1942, was of flat tiles. The three-tiered design—flat tile above, shingle and then clapboard foundation—is evocative of the true shingle style and its English prototypes."

In the years that followed, the distinctive tile and shingle was replaced by "wholly undistinguished tin sheeting and asphalt tiles," said Mrs. Burrows. Also removed at some point was a decorative dormer which faced the tracks and one of the building's original twin chimneys.

The supporting braces of the roof, which Mrs. Burrows describes as "well-proportioned examples of carpenter gothic, pleasing and somewhat whimsically finished," do remain in their original form.

"The Sweet Briar Station has thus been saved from the wrecking crew," a college spokesman said, "and we hope that this historic building which has played such an important role in connection with Sweet Briar will continue to be a much-loved part of the college."

Plans for use of the station are still uncertain. But the College is aware of numerous possibilities for the space. Suggestions have included using the old station as a coffee house, a museum, an exhibition hall or as an arts and crafts center not only for Sweet Briar, but for the surrounding community.



Uncle Smellicue (John Meadows) gives Barbara Allen (Christy Mills) a whiff from his jug as they rehearse a scene in Sweet Briar College's production of "Dark of the Moon." The play was produced under the direction of Professor Thomas King as part of the Winter Term Theatre Workshop.

## Theatre Workshop

The Winter Term Theatre Workshop, with the addition of professional guest artists, presented an enormously successful production of "Dark of the Moon," the story of Blue Ridge Mountain folk and their struggle with witches and witchcraft.

The play was directed by Professor Thomas King and choreographed by Mrs. Eija Celli, professor of dance, and Mr. Paul Plumadore, Visiting Instructor in Dance.

Complete with fog machine, craggy mountain scenery and magnificent music, acting, singing and dancing, "Dark of the Moon" transported the audience into a world of ethereal witches, a witch-boy turned human for the love of Barbara Allen and a host of "foot-washing Baptist" mountain folk superstitious of shadows in the night.

The free performance attracted large crowds, often swelled by those who had seen the production the previous night, and won wide acclaim from all segments of the community.

## The Pendulum Swings

It's time to stick a wet finger in the air; the wind seems to be changing (again).

The "oldtimers" said it had been at least a decade since any of them had seen anything like it.

Sweet Briar women in long dresses, accompanied by black-tied escorts, drifted along the walks of the quad into the Refectory for a formal and breakfast sponsored by the Sophomore Class. Not only did the Sophomores conceive and execute the first black tie affair in years at Sweet Briar, but they turned it into such a smashing success that a spring formal seems assured.

"The more things change . . ."

## Forums (continued from page 1)

One must expect something more from art than works that are so passive that they become mere pieces of furniture," the noted artist stated.

The January Forums were concluded by Mrs. Catherine H. C. Seaman, Sweet Briar Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology.

Mrs. Seaman's program, "The Media Is Not the Medium," dealt with "the impact of the public media on the socialization of children and the value system of the American family." She examined a number of ways in which we and our society are affected by what we see and hear on television and radio and read in the press.

Gregory T. Armstrong, chairman of the Sweet Briar January Forums Committee stated that the Forums are being held this year in the first of what is hoped will be a long series of annual events which will explore topics of interest and educational value to citizens of the surrounding area.



President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr., is shown greeting U.S. Ambassador John Irwin at a reception recently in Paris. President Whiteman and Junior Year in France Director Robert Marshall were in France for Dr. Whiteman's first tour of inspection of the J.Y.F. program and for meetings with French university officials to discuss exchange of students between France and the U.S. Ambassador Irwin's son, from Princeton University, is currently participating in the Junior Year in France.

## Scholarships Abroad

Last year, the Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France celebrated its 25th anniversary.

In connection with the anniversary, a drive was launched to raise \$25,000 to provide additional scholarships and financial aid to participants in the program.

Dr. Robert G. Marshall, director of Junior Year in France, reports that "during the 26 years of the operation of this program, we have granted financial aid in excess of \$225,000. Students have also received another \$60,1753 from their own colleges and other sources for a total of over \$830,000."

For 1973-74, 21 of the students participating in the Junior Year in France Program have received over \$70,000 in financial assistance from various sources.

"It is extremely important," said Dr. Marshall, "that we continue to be in a position to provide this kind of assistance."

"Therefore our drive to collect an additional \$25,000, started December, 1972, is continuing vigorously," Dr. Marshall explained. "Thus far we have raised in excess of \$8,000 for this 25th Anniversary Fund."

"It allowed us this year, to award the first scholarship from this new fund to Miss Linda Lee Santora of Wheaton College, Massachusetts. We are confident that this is the first in a long series of grants which will be made over the years to worthy students engaged in this type of study," Dr. Marshall concluded.

## Library To Receive Rare Texts

Captain Vladmir S. Littauer, who once served in the First Hussars of the Czar's Russian Imperial Cavalry, has agreed to will his collection of books on horseback riding techniques to the Sweet Briar library.

The collection, considered one of the finest and most complete in the world, contains some 300 volumes of extremely rare texts. Included is the first book ever to present a systematic method of riding printed in Italy in 1555.

Captain Littauer, often referred to as the most influential man in riding scholarship in America, has been associated with the Sweet Briar riding program since the 1930's when he began to conduct annual clinics on campus.

## Published

Mrs. Antoinette Roubichou, formerly Lecturer in French at Sweet Briar, has recently published two works, *Maurice Sceve et l' ecole lyonnaise* and *La Vision de l'histoire dans l'oeuvre*

## Sweet Briar College Newsletter

*de la Pleiade*, which reflect Mrs. Roubichou's keen perception and lively interest in French literature of the Renaissance.

Mrs. Roubichou, who served on the faculty at Sweet Briar from 1971 to 1973, now resides in New Orleans where her husband, a former professor of French literature at the University of Virginia, has been appointed Cultural Attaché for the French government.

## Energy

Vice President and Treasurer Peter V. Daniel has instituted a number of changes at Sweet Briar as a result of the energy shortage. The measures have been conceived to conserve and make more efficient use of available energy. As a result, no disruption of the college's normal schedule and activities is anticipated. Among the policies outlined by the vice president were:

- Thermostat settings in all buildings have been set at 65-68 degrees with occupants urged to further reduce heat in unused areas. Heating in unoccupied buildings is substantially cut during vacation periods.

- Classes do not resume on Monday following vacations, thereby avoiding the necessity of students traveling on a "gasless Sunday."

- All purely aesthetic lighting has been eliminated without affecting the security of persons or their possessions on campus.

- Excessive lighting in buildings has been removed and faculty and students are constantly being reminded to turn off lights and appliances when not in use.

- Use of college motor vehicles has been limited to essential travel and reduced speed limits are observed.

Mr. Daniel reports excellent voluntary compliance with the new regulations and, as a result, no more stringent measures are anticipated.

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